



– For Immediate Release –

Monday July 14, 2008

IIMPACT detectives investigate South Phoenix Drop House

Two Human Smugglers Arrested. 8 UDA's Held Captive

On July 14, 2008 at approximately 6:30 p.m. IIMPACT (ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION PREVENTION & APPREHENSION CO-OP TEAM) Detectives responded to 717 West Jones Avenue on a report that three UDA's (Undocumented Aliens) being held for ransom. The Arizona Department of Public Safety SWAT Team entered the house and discovered 8 UDA's being held captive in a fortified room. Detectives arrested two men believed to be Human Smugglers

The investigation began Sunday Night June 13th when IIMPACT Detectives received a phone call from a relative of one of the victims in Mexico. She stated her loved one was one of 3 UDA's being held captive by Human Smugglers who demanded \$7,000 in ransom money for all 3 victims. IIMPACT Detectives were able to locate the house through various investigative techniques.

The UDA victims included two young women. They told investigators they were on their way to Kansas, New York, New Jersey and Ohio. Most had been held for two days. All were being extorted for money.

The 8 UDA's were turned over to the custody of ICE.

IIMPACT was formed almost a year ago. It is a multi-agency project managed by GIITEM of the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) that is designed to address rising crime associated with illegal immigration. IIMPACT is comprised of personnel from DPS, Phoenix Police, ICE and the Arizona Fraudulent Identification Task Force (AFIT). As the name implies, local, state and federal state agencies combine forces to impact international human smuggling organizations operating in Arizona.

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